

Clarifications

Clarification 1:

In reviewing answers to bidder's questions, it was noticed that several questions submitted by different vendors seem to have different section references for the same RFP text. For example:

- on page 23 of the bidder's questions and answers document, there is the following question and answer:

Pg 41, 8.iv & 8.v. Reporting of Results	Both of these sections refer to Section H1(a) of the RFP. This section designation does not appear to match the RFP section numbering. What RFP section is being referred to?
	Answer: This reference in both of these sections should consider all of the reports in H1. Reporting of Results.

The RFP version currently posted to the Nebraska website does not have section H1. But does have Section 8.a.

- on page 27 of the bidder's questions and answer document, there is the following question and answer:

Pg 43 H2a Scope of Work	Indicates there are 10 one-half day workshops following release of test results. Is each workshop held in a different location? Is the contractor responsible for logistics, travel/reimbursement for any participants other than contractor staff? If so, how many and at what rates?
	Answer: Administrator and Reporting Training: NDE anticipates that meetings will be held in various locations across the State. NDE will assist contractor in securing meeting locations. Contractor is responsible for any costs for the meeting rooms and any refreshments provided. For these meetings, participants will be responsible for their own travel costs, substitutes, etc. The contractor will be responsible for pre-registration, materials, etc. Contractor should plan on an average of 75 participants at each meeting.

The RFP version currently posted to the Nebraska website does not have section H2a. But it does have on page 42, section 8.b.i

- on page 9 of the bidder's questions and answers document, there is the following question and answer:

Pg 33 Section IV.A. Section 4.C4.d	In how many languages does NDE need to support testing?
	Answer: Spanish is most common language after English.

The RFP version currently posted to the Nebraska website does not have Section IVa. or section 4.C4.d. on or near page 33. Should bidders use the RFP version loaded on the Nebraska website as of July 21, 2008? Or is there another version that should be referenced (released before or after July 21)?

Given that different vendors clearly have different RFP versions, please confirm the version to be used. Additionally, given that vendors may have been working off an incorrect version would the NDE consider an extension to the deadline?

Response 1:

There is only one version of the RFP and it was posted (released) on July 25, 2008. It is posted in two locations – the Nebraska Department of Education website (<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/assessment/rfp.htm>) and the State website (<http://www.das.state.ne.us/materiel/purchasing/NDE%2008-449-01.htm>). Without notifying the NDE, someone renumbered and made some format changes in the RFP on the State website. We have very carefully reviewed both documents and the contents are the same, just numbered differently. We apologize for any confusion this has caused and will accept proposals numbered according to either RFP.

Clarification 2:

The answer to the question on the top of pg 22 indicates that NDE expects only one form is needed per grade/subject for the standalone field tests. However, in the RFP and in other answers to questions, NDE clearly expects that two operational forms will be developed (Form A and B) for each grade/subject with 60 items each. In order to have enough items that survive field testing to construct two operational forms, even with overlap between the two forms, more than one form per grade/subject will be needed for the standalone field test. Please confirm that NDE is open to a proposed design that has multiple forms per grade/subject for the standalone field tests.

Response 2:

NDE is open to a propose design that has multiple forms per grade/subject for the standalone field tests.

Clarification 3:

Section B2, A, page 34. Our standard online tests can contain audio and be authored in whatever font is appropriate for the intended audience. However, accommodations capabilities

that include zoom and text to speech are an additional cost. In order to appropriately cost, would you provide an estimate of the number of students that would require accommodations capabilities?

Response 3:

NDE does not have very useful data relative to the number or type of accommodations used. The latest data indicate that the percentage of students with disabilities in the State is about 15%. The latest assessment results indicated that about 45% of the special education students assessed had an accommodation of some kind. The latest assessment data are from STARS assessments that were teacher developed and classroom based.